

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10697 231003Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /049 W

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R 230904Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5912

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

1. DURING COURSE OF GENERAL CONVERSATION AUGUST 22 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA, I INQUIRED RE PRESENT REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR KABBANI WAS BEING RECALLED FROM WASHINGTON TO BECOME HEAD OF LEBANESE CIVIL SERVICE. SAID I HAD HEARD THAT KARAME AND FRANGIE HAD DIFFERENT CANDIDATES FOR THIS IMPORTANT JOB. CHOICE WAS DEADLOCKED SO THEY COMPROMISED ON KABBANI. TAQLA SAID THIS WAS APPROXIMATELY THE CASE, THAT KABBANI HAD RESISTED BEING RECALLED, AND HAD AGREED TO RETURN BEIRUT ONLY AFTER TAQLA HAD SPOKEN TO HIM ON THE PHONE.

2. SAID I HAD HEARD IT RUMORED THAT HE MIGHT BE REPLACED BY MUNIR GHANDOUR CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN. TAQLA SAID NADIM DIMASHKIEH, CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO LONDON, HAD TURNED DOWN WASHINGTON AND GHANDOUR WAS AMONG THOSE BEING CONSIDERED BUT HE WAS RATHER YOUNG. TAQLA ASKED MY ADVICE. I INQUIRED RHETORICALLY WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SELECT SOME ALERT, YOUNGISH PROFESSIONAL MAN SUCH AS MICHEL KHOURY OR FUAD BOUTROS WHO KNEW OUR COUNTRY SO WELL. I TOLD TAQLA I DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN LEBANESE FOREIGN SERVICE WELL ENOUGH TO COMMENT.

3. I UNDERSTAND KABBANI WILL PROBABLY BE LEAVING

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WASHINGTON AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY

THOUGHTS RE HIS SUCCESSOR, I THINK I COULD GET THEM TO
TAQLA DISCREETLY.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, AMBASSADORS
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Draft Date: 23 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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To: STATE
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